

PATENT  
Customer No. 22,852  
Attorney Docket No. 08758.0001

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: )  
)  
Pere RELATS et al. ) Group Art Unit: 3765  
)  
Application No.: 10/085,066 ) Examiner: Larry D. Worrell Jr.  
)  
Filed: March 1, 2002 )  
)  
For: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR )  
PROVIDING A PROTECTING )  
TUBE (as amended) )

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)**

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56 and 1.97(c), Applicants brings to the attention of the Examiner the documents listed on the attached PTO 1449. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the events recited in Section 1.97(b) but, to the undersigned's knowledge, before the mailing date of either a Final action, Quayle action, or a Notice of Allowance. Under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c), this Information Disclosure Statement requires a fee of \$180.00, as specified by Section 1.17(p). Please charge this fee to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Copies of the listed documents, including any copending patent applications, are attached. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the listed documents and indicate that they were considered by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

English translations of the non-English documents are enclosed.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claims in the application and Applicants determine that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

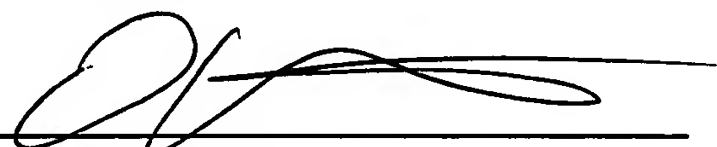
If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

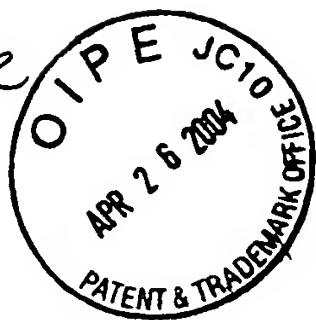
FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,  
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: April 23, 2004

By:



D. Kent Stier  
Reg. No. 50,640  
(404) 653-6559

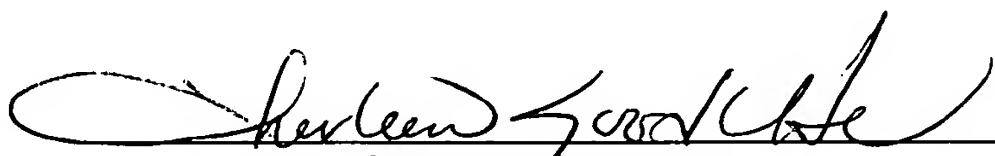


3765

# **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on April 23, 2004  
Date

  
Sherleen Goodlette

## Attachments:

1. Information Disclosure Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) (2 pgs)
2. Form PTO 1449 (1 pg)
3. Copies of non-U.S. references
4. Post Card to Acknowledge Receipt

